

OUR IDENTITY

in Christ

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THE BELIEVERS TRUE IDENTITY

OUR IDENTITY IS...

- **NOT** what we do - Our work, title, and role do not define us.
- **NOT** what we have - Possessions and status cannot tell us who we are.
- **NOT** our accomplishments - Success fades and performance doesn't define us.



OUR IDENTITY IS FOUND IN JESUS CHRIST!

We are a new creation!

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17 (NKJV)

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

- **Our physical appearance has not changed, but you have a new spiritual identity.**
- **Past mistakes, guilt, shame, and old sinful habits no longer define who we are.**



RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD IN CHRIST

2 CORINTHIANS 5:21 (NKJV)

For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.



Jesus Took Our Sin

- Sinless, carried human sin at the cross

We Receive His Righteousness

- In Him, we are the righteousness of God.

A Gift, Not Earned

- Nothing earned but received by faith



THE KEY PHRASE: "IN HIM"

- Outside of Christ, there is no source of righteousness available to us.
- If we don't have Jesus, then who will make us righteous?

ISAIAH 64:6 (NKJV)

**But we are all like an unclean *thing*,
And all our righteousnesses *are* like filthy rags;
We all fade as a leaf,
And our iniquities, like the wind,
Have taken us away.**



- **People can't make us righteous.
No person, tradition, or approval can grant it.**
- **We can't make ourselves righteous.
Effort and good works cannot produce what only God gives.**

**Only Jesus Christ makes us righteous!
We are the righteousness of God in Christ.**



This is why we cannot allow false teachings to confuse us and tell us we don't need Jesus.

- **Refuse any message that removes our righteousness with Him.**
- **Hold firmly to what the Bible says about our identity!**



THE PARABLE OF THE WEDDING FEAST

The Guest Who Did Not Wear the Wedding Garment

MATTHEW 22:1 - 2 (NKJV)

And Jesus answered and spoke to them again by parables and said: ² **“The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son, ³ and sent out his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding; and they were not willing to come.**



MATTHEW 22:11 - 14 (NKJV)

11 “But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment. ¹² So he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?’ And he was speechless. ¹³ Then the king said to the servants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast *him* into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

14 “For many are called, but few *are* chosen.”



KEY POINTS

KING – Represents God the Father (verse 2)

SON – Represents Jesus Christ the Son of God (verse 2)

- In Biblical times the father of the groom would provide a wedding garment for all of the guests.
- Today God, our Father, freely provides us with the garment of salvation.
- We receive this garment of salvation when we accept Jesus Christ as our Savior.



ISAIAH 61:10 (NKJV)

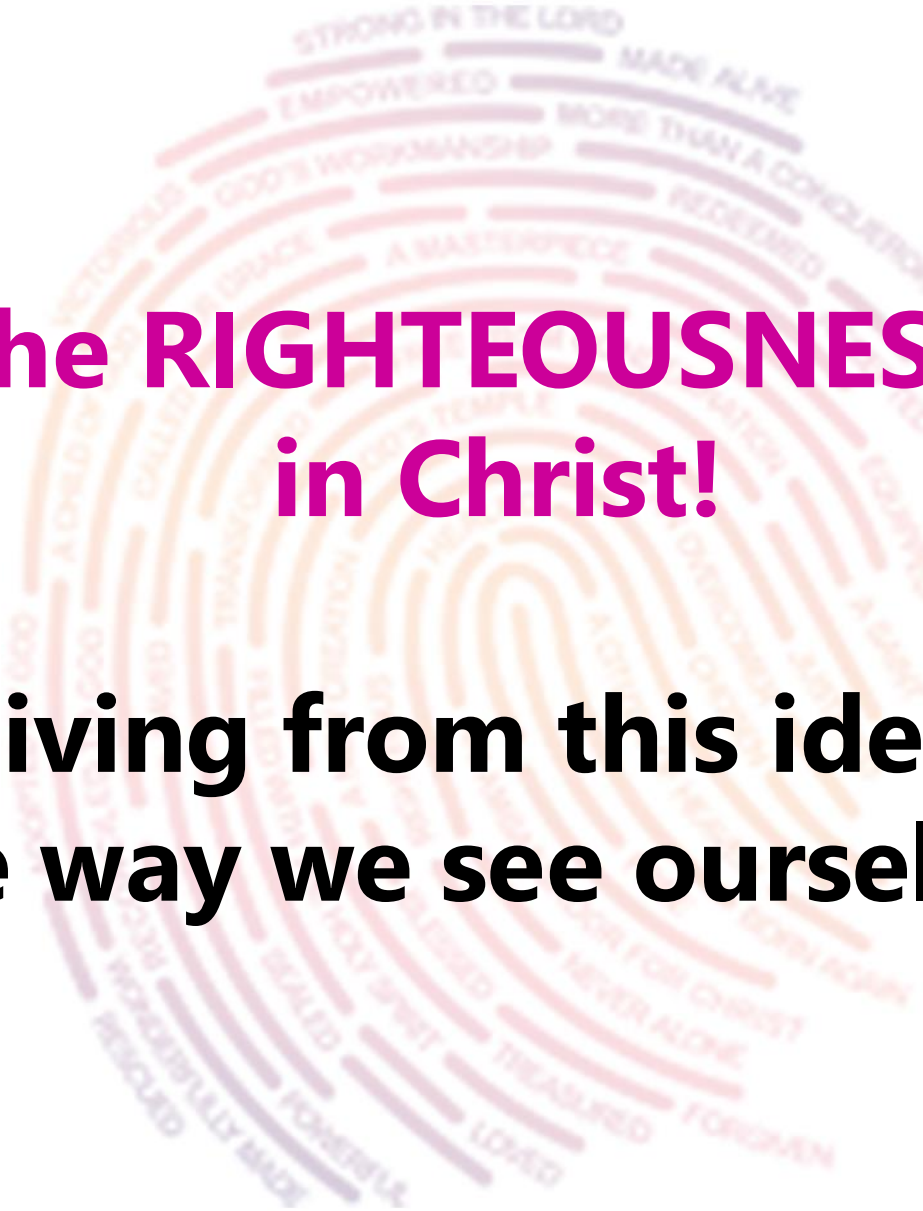
**I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
My soul shall be joyful in my God;
For He has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
He has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
As a bridegroom decks *himself* with ornaments,
And as a bride adorns *herself* with her jewels.**



PARABLE OF THE WEDDING FEAST

- The man came into wedding feast without the wedding garment.
- He portrays people who turn away from the gift of salvation, seeking to approach God through their own righteousness.
- A person who rejects Jesus Christ is not clothed in the garment of salvation or the robe of righteousness.





**WE are the RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD
in Christ!**

**How does living from this identity change
the way we see ourselves?**

THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

MATTHEW 5:14 – 16 (NKJV)

14 “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. **15** Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all *who are* in the house. **16** Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.



OUR IDENTITY IN CHRIST MAKES US THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD!

- We were made to **shine the light of Christ** into darkness.
- Our identity in Christ is meant to be visible in how we live.
- People will see our **good works** and glorify our Father in heaven.



"Let there be LIGHT."
Genesis 1:3

- **God's first recorded command in Scripture brought light into darkness.**
- **Light is important and necessary. God did not intend for the world to exist in darkness. Without light, darkness remains. Darkness is the absence of light.**
- **Rooms with no windows, bulbs, or other source of light will be dark.**
- **If we do not allow **Christ** in, we continue walking in darkness.**

MATTHEW 5:14 (NKJV)

- **God creates opportunities for us to shine as Christ has called us to.**
- **Although we can shine for Christ, we sometimes choose not to.**
- **We may dim our light and hide our identity depending on the people and circumstances around us.**

WAYS WE DIM OUR LIGHT

- 1. Not sharing the Gospel**
- 2. Following the crowd instead of Christ**
- 3. Continuing in sin without repentance**
- 4. Ignoring the needs of others**
- 5. Being controlled by fear**



- **We do not buy a light to hide it or keep it to ourselves.**
- **We place it where it can shine effectively for everyone in the house — and everyone in darkness.**
- **God has positioned us to shine for Him!**
- **God gave us gifts, talents, athletic abilities, and strategies and positioned us where we shine brightest for Him.**

Our light isn't just for us, but it's for others to see it and glorify God.



WE are the LIGHT OF THE WORLD!

**How does living from this identity change
the way we see ourselves?**

Our identity is found in Christ.

**Remember who we are.
Walk in it!**

OUR IDENTITY
in Christ